

Welcome

With 10th anniversary celebrations behind us, the next 10 years will continue to build on the vision and mission to enhance, protect and restore the Rotokare Scenic Reserve and beyond.

Thanks! To the following individuals and organisations;



Hawera Training Centre donation of \$10,000 presented by Rangi Abraham

Gwen Muller for a generous donation towards project development

Balance Kapuni for their recent \$2,000 donation

Matt's Computers for generous discounting of IT services

With thanks to Mark Bellringer, we are pleased to have launched the Rotokare video, which outlines the story of the Reserve. You can



watch this video on our website.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from the community.

Happy Reading from the Rotokare

Art Auction a Huge Success



In May, the Eltham Town Hall held the very successful fundraising Rotokare Art Auction, with an estimated 170 people in attendance and approximately \$19,000 raised for the reserve.

40 artists generously contributed pieces of work towards the auction and the sanctuary was very humbled by the support shown.

"It was absolutely fantastic, a huge success," commented Sanctuary Manager Simon Collins

A huge thank you must go to the dedicated volunteers at the Village Gallery in Eltham for hanging and exhibiting the artworks prior to the auction. Sponsorship from local business also helped make the night the success it was, and we would like to thank the following contributors for helping to achieve this: McDonalds Real Estate, Lysaght Watt Trust, Eltham Community Board, South Taranaki District Council, Feats, The Hubb Jazz Café, Countdown Stratford, Eftpos Specialists Taranaki Ltd, Mountain View Vineyard Church, Fonterra, Te Kahuri Nursery and Mike Radich, Wine Merchant.

Keeping things entertaining was Peter McDonald, the auctioneer for the evening. Keynote speaker Ruud Kleinpaste animatedly shared his thoughts on the values of biodiversity, conservation, interconnectedness and the importance of understanding our environment. Also featuring as guest speakers were local MP Chester Burrows and South Taranaki District Mayor Ross Dunlop.



Life Memberships acknowledged



Alex Ballantyne, Win Kerr, Ray Willy and Don Litchfield receive their Life Membership awards.



'Friends of the Wind 2' by Derek Parker Little. One of the pieces sold in the Art Auction.

Special mention must be made to the contributions of Barry Hartley, QSM, who is retiring as a Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trustee.

Barry is one of the original Trustees and has been instrumental in the development of flora and fauna monitoring at Rotokare. He was also fundamental in the establishment of the



ecological sanctuary project.

Whilst Barry is standing down as a Trust member he will still be involved with the Reserve. We thank him for all his contributions – past, present and future.

Trust chairman Mike Weren noted that the auction also coincided with an opportunity to mark the Reserve's 10th anniversary. It was the perfect opportunity to say "cheers" to the people who have helped out over the years.

"It was a good celebration of thanks for everybody about what we have achieved out at Rotokare," he said.

Four long-standing volunteers were honoured with Life Membership awards during the proceedings. Win Kerr, Ray Willy, Don Litchfield ("Litchy") and Alex Ballantyne were acknowledged. These volunteers, along with countless others, devote their spare

Thanks are due to the ever-supportive community, who helped make the evening such a success; especially the Maata Women's Group, Friends of Eltham Town Hall, the Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigade, Rawhitiroa School, and Rawhitiroa Hall.



Ever wondered what happens in the bush after dark??

why not join a
Night Tour

at the

Rotokare Scenic Reserve?

A chance to see and hear some of our nocturnal wildlife including kiwi, ruru (morepork), glow-worms, geckos, weta & other invertebrates, tuna (eels), and even koura (freshwater crayfish)

Tours available;

Friday the 14th of August

@ 5:30pm

(postponement Friday the 21st of August)

Friday the 4th of September

@ 5:30pm

(postponement Friday the 11th of September)

School Holidays:

Wednesday the 30th of September

@ 6:30pm

(postponement Thursday the 1st of October)

Cost: A minimum donation of \$5 for Adults and \$2 per Child to the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust
Please bring a torch.

To book contact us on 06 764 8500
or contact@rotokare.org.nz

Halo launch



The Halo project aims to deepen the collaboration with the community by working collectively with local landowners, schools and other partners to promote and increase wildlife survival and general native biodiversity, with an overarching goal of achieving habitat connectivity beyond the boundaries of Rotokare Scenic Reserve.



The Reserve will always have an overflow into the surrounding area and a fundamental emphasis behind the Halo project is to preserve as much of this as possible by creating a 'safe zone' around the Sanctuary, which can be continually expanding.

The Halo Project was officially kicked-off on July 7th by Minister for the Environment, Dr. Nick Smith. Community buy-in has been tremendous and it is great to be assessing sites and discussing the project with enthusiastic land owners. A range of traps have already been deployed on three properties neighbouring Rotokare and we will soon be starting baseline biodiversity monitoring. This is an exciting and ambitious project that will see an increase in biodiversity within our region.

After 3 years, the halo project aims to cover 2,500ha with up to 1,000 traps, placing particular emphasis on targeting waterways and habitat areas.



Biodiversity Update



Tieke and Popokatea

It has been over a year since tieke/saddleback and popokatea/whitehead were translocated from Hauturu/Little Barrier Island and Bushy Park.

In May a survey was held to ascertain survival rate and breeding success. We had a great response with over 30 people participating.

The conditions were not exactly favourable with a strong wind developing throughout the day and a few cold showers. Despite this, most heard or saw tieke and some saw flocks of popokatea. Many of the birds seen were unbanded juveniles born at Rotokare last summer, which indicates a healthy breeding season for both species.

The exercise was great for strengthening biodiversity group connections, with people involved from Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, DOC, Forest & Bird, and Bushy Park.



Dactylanthus

The threatened endemic plant, *Dactylanthus taylorii* grows parasitically on the roots of native hardwood trees. It is often erroneously referred to as 'Wood rose', but the 'rose' is in fact part of the host tree. With the advice and assistance from DOC, Rotokare has begun a seed translocation of this fascinating plant into the Sanctuary.

Dactylanthus is highly susceptible to browsing by possums, pigs and rodents and is predominantly pollinated by bats, so the habitat at Rotokare should be very suitable. Seed has so far been sown at a few sites at Rotokare, but it will be some time before we will know if the translocation has been successful as Dactylanthus seeds



Volunteer Jenny planting *Dactylanthus* seed



2016 Fundraising Calendar

It's time again to call for photo submissions for our annual fundraising calendar. Do you have a photo of Rotokare, taken at Rotokare, or relevant to native flora & fauna? We would be thrilled to have your support.

Email photos to contact@rotokare.org.nz or phone 06 764 8500 for information.

Coming Up...

It is almost time once again for our tracking tunnels to go out for our spring audit. We have 1200 tunnels that will be carded and baited to monitor what is moving around on the forest floor. These will then be collected, dried, and read by 3 different people to establish what has made its way through the tunnels.

Another exciting opportunity for a translocation is in the pipeline. Rotokare is exploring the potential to translocate hihi (stitchbird) in the near future so fingers crossed. This would be an exciting addition to the sanctuary, and an important step in supporting national hihi conservation objectives.

Seeking Sponsorship or donation of key items... Can you help?

Petrol hedge trimmer with attachable long pole handle – crucial for efficient fence maintenance programme.

Medium sized chainsaw: we only have a pruning saw which is not suitable for tree felling and windthrow work.

Emergency fence breach backpack (X2): fully equipped for fence breach response.

Emergency comprehensive first aid backpack (X1).

ATV (side-by-side) or quad bike (Halo and education).

Fence monitoring Upgrade project: a project for improvement to the fence monitoring system.



North Island Robin with its new 'leg-warmers' on. We have banded our resident robins to monitor their population.



Litchy putting out a Halo trap on a neighbouring property. →



Close up and personal! James Hansen says hello to a Mahoenui giant weta during a recent volunteer and staff outing.

Proud to recognise major sponsors & supporters:



Keep checking for pests before you come through our gates, thanks for helping us stay pest-free!